

Amendment submitted in response
to Office Action mailed 10/27/2004
U.S. Pat App. No. 10/684,670
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Remarks/Arguments

Status of the Application

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections set forth in the Office Action mailed on October 27, 2004.

The Examiner has rejected claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. 112 as indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The Examiner has allowed claims 1-4 and 7-8.

As such, claims 1-8 are pending in this application.

The Claims

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 5 and 6

The Examiner has rejected claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. 112 as indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Examiner has stated that there is no proper antecedent basis for "the endplates" of claim 5.

Applicants have amended claim 5 to read:

The method of claim 1 wherein aligning the manifold with a machining guide assembly comprises:

- a) providing a plurality of centering adapter blocks that are removably attached with the pair of substantially parallel endplates;
- b) attaching a pair of side locating bars with the plurality of centering adapter blocks;
- c) locating the manifold onto the side locating bars such that the manifold is aligned and centered with the centering shaft.

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Antecedent basis for the proposed amendment may be found at line 4 of allowed dependent claim 2. As such, Applicant submits that there is proper antecedent basis for rejected claim 5. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the above rejection be withdrawn.

In addition, dependent claim 6 depends directly from claim 5 and is therefore patentable for at least the same reasons as stated above for claim 5. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the above rejection be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-4, and 7-8

The Examiner is thanked for the allowance of claims 1-4, and 7-8.

Applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application; the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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